

XL.—*Description of a new Species of Balanus, from the Cabinet of Samuel Wright, Esq., of Cork.* By the Rev. WILLIAM HINCKS, F.L.S.

MR. WRIGHT, who is a zealous collector in several departments of Natural History, and is well known from his valuable contributions to the fossil conchology of the interesting district in which he resides, transmitted the species now to be noticed to the present writer to be examined and compared with the specimens in the British Museum, and on finding that it is undescribed, requested that some account of it might be communicated to the public.

This animal may perhaps belong to the genus *Balanus*, though Mr. Gray is of opinion that it must form the type of a new genus, and it is a question which may be left for future decision.

It is attached to the common turtle. The shell consists of six valves, slightly cohering, unequal in size, the smallest and largest being opposed to each other, each valve externally marked by two or three strong ridges meeting towards the apex, sometimes further branched below, which penetrate the bone of the turtle like the fangs of teeth, and appear to enter the fat underneath. They at length almost, perhaps altogether, cut out the portion of bone on which the *Balanus* stands, so that the removal of the shell would leave a roundish hole. The opercular valves are lost in Mr. Wright's specimens, which were injured in cutting up the turtle. The diameter of the base in the largest specimen is 1.8 inch. The *Balanus* being firmly attached to the bony covering of the turtle, which it penetrates in the manner described, protrudes through the horny exterior shell; but a young specimen apparently of the same species is fixed to the internal surface of the horny shell, not having yet either attached itself to the bone or forced its way through the outer covering.

A specimen in the British Museum which seems to be of the same species, though the fangs are less developed, had its peculiarity of appearance attributed to accidental injury, until a comparison with Mr. Wright's specimen showed its real nature.

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It is a curious subject for inquiry, by what means, whether mechanical or chemical, this *Balanus* is enabled to penetrate the hard bone of the turtle as well as its outer shell, and also what is the relation of this arrangement to the œconomy of the animal.

I venture to propose as a name for the species *Balanus chelytrypêtes*\*.

XLI.—*On the Effects produced upon Animal and Vegetable Life by the Winter of 1838.* By P. J. SELBY, Esq., of Twizel House.

THE severity with which the year was ushered in by the long-continued frost during the months of January, February, and a part of March, the cold and long-retarded spring, succeeded by a chilly and ungenial summer, as well as a late and deficient harvest, place the year 1838 upon our records as one of peculiar, though happily of unwonted character. Under circumstances of such a nature, and which it is more than probable may not again occur during the limit of the present generation, a few observations upon the effects of so severe a season, as connected with animal as well as vegetable life, more particularly as affecting our own district, may perhaps prove not altogether uninteresting to the members of the club†. It will be in the recollection of those who attended to the weather, that, up to the 5th of January 1838, the season, with the exception of the first week of the previous November, when we experienced a severe but cursory snow storm, had upon the whole been temperate and mild: this was particularly the case on Christmas, and two or three following days, when the thermometer ranged from 52° to 55°, at which time, I may remark, many of the thrushes which still remained inland, were heard recording in distinct and audible key, thus flattering us with the hope that winter had divested herself of her characteristic garb, and that these sweet carols were to be the prelude of an early spring. These halcyon days, however, were of short duration, as, on the 6th of January, frost set in, accompanied in this district by showers or falls of snow and hail, which, in consequence of the calm state of the atmosphere, fell level upon the surface. It thus continued falling at frequent intervals, more or less, for nearly

\* *Chelys*, Gr., a turtle, and *trypêtes*, a Greek word signifying 'one that perforates.'

† From the Transactions of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club:—see p. 129 of the present volume.

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